

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 24, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:
None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated October 24, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2017. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron commented on a recent Insurance Meeting that took place. They anticipate on having a decision as to what direction to move towards for employee insurance by the next Town Council meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich said there was a meeting held with a group “Friends of Stefek Park” to discuss concerns regarding the concrete wall and old basketball courts. The next meeting will be held on November 4th. Ms. Orlich said they are organizing the procession with Santa and provided an update on the event details.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron said the Lake County Solid Waste CAP program will be ending in December. The program provided 32 benches generated thus far.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report. Mr. Pettit reminded the Town Council Members of the Annual Crossroads Regional Chamber Gala that will be held at Avalon Manor on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 6 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway commented regarding the offer for the property at 5678 Broadway. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the offer and approve the sale of the property. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit spoke about a letter received from Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors. The letter was an invitation for a Vacant, Abandoned and Problem Properties Training Academy on Nov. 16th at White Hawk. President Hardaway and Code Enforcement plan on attending the training.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-25: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, depleting monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-26: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the General fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-21: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a budget line item within the Police Department General fund budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-22: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, providing that the Code of Ordinances, Section 16-2, Ordinance 89-65 be amended to increase clothing allowance. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion regarding the allowance amount followed. There was no public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-23: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 17-01 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-24: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana providing that the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established C-3 and R-2 Zoning Classification to a PUD-C-3 Zoning Classification. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 17-30: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana approving the transfer of certain property commonly known as 122 West 55th Avenue to Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to table the resolution. The motion to table was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion to table the resolution was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-31: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Police Department Property Seizures fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Alicia Claiborne
Owner: R.E.M.I Corporation
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: Proposed biblical & leadership training center
Location: 5401 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z35E15-0917
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only.

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to lift the request to table and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Sheila Shine provided an update related to the parking for the request. Discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve including conditions outlined by BZA. Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Serrita Conner
Owner: R.E.M.I Corporation
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: Holistic herbal treatment center for women
Location: 5417 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z37E17-0917
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to lift the request to table and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve including conditions outlined by BZA. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit reminded the Town Council Members that the Chamber will be moving into a new office located on 84th Drive. Mr. Pettit invited everyone to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 30th at 4 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Vehicle Auction, October 25, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, October 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, October 26, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

TRICK OR TREATING, October 31, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

First Responders Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, November 7, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop, November 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Ward 3 meeting, November 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at American Legion.

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
November 10, 2017 in observance of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day Ceremony will be on November 10, 2017 at
11:00 a.m. (To be held in the Town Council meeting room)

Town Council workshop, November 14, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, November 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Pettit.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer